

Aerosmith gives town \$25,000 for animal shelter

By DEBORA BABIN KATZ
For The Patriot Ledger

DUXBURY — The South Shore's "Bad Boys of Rock" may be full of sweet emotion after all.

Last night, Town Manager Rocco Longo presented to town officials a check for \$25,000 from Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry and his wife, Billie. The donation, made "on behalf of the Aerosmith band," is to be put toward the construction of a new town animal shelter.

"This is very good news for the town and a very generous contribution," Longo said.

He said the Perrys, who live in Dux-

bury, had hoped to be at the presentation but were unable to attend. The band performed at the Academy Awards ceremonies Sunday night in Los Angeles.

"They plan to be at the (animal shelter) groundbreaking if it's before their world-wide tour," Longo said.

He said Aerosmith raised a "significant amount of money" at one of their concerts and decided to donate some of the proceeds.

"Each band member decided on a certain charity to donate to," and Perry chose the Duxbury animal shelter, Longo explained.

In December, Duxbury Animal Control Officer Haley-Dee Parlin received a call

from Billie Perry asking about the shelter's gift accounts and how much a new shelter would cost.

"She called back Christmas Eve to let us know that the band had OK'd the donation," Parlin said.

In addition to the Aerosmith gift, "the town has another \$15,000, which includes a \$5,000 contribution from the Copeland Foundation and \$10,000 approved at town meeting," Longo said.

Parlin said she plans to run events similar to ones held in Marshfield in 1991, when \$50,000 in materials and services was raised for an animal shelter project.

This is not the first time the Perrys

have made a substantial contribution to benefit their town. Last October, Joe Perry donated a guitar to the Duxbury Rotary Club for a November auction to benefit "Operation Vision."

The guitar had been signed by all five Aerosmith members — Perry, Steven Tyler, Joey Kramer, Brad Whitford and Tom Hamilton — and went for \$12,000, the highest bid at the auction. The proceeds were used to purchase a thermal imaging device for the Duxbury Fire Department.

"We can't thank Joe and Billie Perry enough," Fire Chief William Harriman said. "This just shows how wonderful they are to our community."



Joe Perry